Co-operative Education Strategy for the Co-operative Federation of Victoria

Implementation Strategy/Plan

Mervyn Wilson, Chief Executive and Principal of the Co-operative College in the UK, has provided a Co-operative Education Strategy to the Federation following his visit to Victoria in September 2005.

The Strategy report and recommendations were endorsed by the Federation Board at its meeting held on 10 November 2005.

This Implementation Strategy/Plan has been prepared by Federation Director, Graeme Charles and addresses each of the seventeen recommendations contained in Mervyn's paper.

Recommendations re Co-operative Education and Director Training

1. **That we develop proposals for executive level workshops on co-operative identity values in practice for Capricorn and Murray Goulburn…….**

   Implementation: Fully costed proposal for a two day Co-operative Identity Program for Senior Managers and Board Members has been finalised. (See proposal as previously circulated to Federation Board members) The proposal to be forwarded to Murray Goulburn and Capricorn following November Federation Board meeting. Proposal will be mailed to key personnel, together with an offer to meet with personnel if required.

2. **That we liase with Elizabeth Cheong and Brad Plunkett with a view to developing the WA Agriculture Department's interest in co-operatives into a wider strategy leading to the development of some director training ……..**

   Implementation: Write to, and discuss this recommendation with Cheong and Plunkett. Subject to their response, continue to liase with and monitor progress of their project.

3. **That the Co-operative College and CFV collaborate with Monash University to promote an annual study tour to the UK and Ireland…….**

   Implementation: GC to discuss this proposal with Mervyn Wilson and subject to that discussion contact Lawrie Dooley with a view to drafting a program for a tour to be undertaken during 2007.

4. **5. and 6. That an early proposal be developed to go to the Advisers to Ministers for Small Business and Department for Victorian Communities to develop case studies and background notes on co-operatives in Victoria…… That the proposal includes the offer to run training sessions to introduce the materials.**
   That the materials include a clear signposting service, not just to other resources, but offering the services of CFV as consultants to assist in co-operative development.

Implementation: GC and DG have discussed this recommendation. GC meeting with Jeff Rich, Manager, Community Enterprise, Department for Victorian Communities on December 2 and David Latina, Executive Director, Office of Small Business on November 30 to discuss and outline proposal as suggested by Mervyn. Subject to the outcome of these meetings, present a detailed proposal to them before the end of December 2005. These proposals would include a revision of the Co-operative Start Up Manual with a particular emphasis on issues relevant to the respective departments.

7. That discussions take place between CFV and relevant education ministries regarding the potential to develop a customised version of the *Not Just for Profit* using the case studies.

Implementation: This recommendation to be pursued upon completion of Recommendation 4.

8. That CFV and the Co-operative College formalise arrangements for the promotion of publications on the CFV website (with a suitable financial return to CFV)

Implementation: DG is in the process of pursuing this recommendation with Mervyn Wilson.

9. **That CFV consider ways of encouraging discussion around learning resources, including the *Marketing Our Co-operative Advantage* materials, historic videos etc.**

Implementation:

10. **That CFV monitor developments with the Co-operative Learning Centre (CLC)**

Implementation: DG to monitor developments and report to Board periodically.

Other Recommendations

a. That CFV review the UK Corporate Governance Code of Best Practice, with a view to establishing a small working party comprising the secretaries of two or three larger co-operatives to see if they could develop an agreed Co-operative Corporate Governance Code of Best Practice that could then be offered to co-operatives throughout Victoria. That, on completion of the above, consideration is given to offering this service to other co-operative apex bodies in Australia.

Implementation: The Board should consider seeking funding, presumably from CAV, in order to implement this recommendation. This sort of action may be one that larger co-operatives will appreciate.

b. That CFV consider what additional services in terms of implementation of the Code it could provide, including arranging specialist training for example, on the role of Audit Committees.

Implementation: To be considered by Board.

c. That CFV review the key co-operative and social performance indicators and the debate around certification to determine whether or not it is practical to develop a role for CFV in this field.

Implementation: To be considered by Board.

d. That CFV review their existing legal provisions against the framework of ILO 193 to determine if there are clear deficiencies that the ILO recommendation could assist with.

Implementation: See a. above.

e. If there are recommendations that could be made for improvements in co-operative legislation, that CFV consider holding a seminar for major co-operatives within Victoria to highlight these issues, with a view to making recommendations to the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Implementation: Dependent on the completion of d. above.

f. That if the above does take place, CFV consider sharing its expertise with apex bodies in other states.

Implementation: No action required at this time.

g. That CFV consider arranging in partnership with one of the major co-operatives, an International Co-operative Day celebrations event in 2006.

Implementation: CFV Board to consider recommendation.

Prepared by: Graeme Charles
28 November 2005.